

# IMMANUEL'S INSIGHTS February 2026

## Tanzania Soup Supper, Auction & Silent Auction

The competition is ON!

Who will be crowned Immanuel's Best Soup Champion this year?

**When: Saturday, March 21, 2026**

Doors open at **5:30 PM** for supper

Auction immediately following

**All-you-can-eat soup!**

**Free-will donation** – all proceeds go to Immanuel's Tanzania Mission

**Where: Immanuel Fellowship Hall**



### Soup Supper

Enjoy a variety of **delicious soups, beverages, desserts, and homemade ice cream.**

**Soup Competition Fun!**

Make your favorite soup, decorate your table, and compete for:

**Judge's Choice** – Best Tasting Soup, **People's Choice** – Best Tasting Soup, **Crowing Rooster Award** – Best Decorated Table



### The Auction

Enjoy both a **Live Auction** and a **Silent Auction** with lots of wonderful items.

**We are looking for auction items!**

Donations can include: A pie or baked item for a month, Gift certificates, Services or labor, Tickets to events, Homemade treasures.

### How You Can Help

Attend the Soup Supper & Auction, Bid on auction items, Make a **free-will donation**, Spread the word to friends and family.



### Mission Impact

**Your support helps:** Sponsor 161 primary school orphans, Sponsor 151 secondary school orphans, 200 confirmation students with bibles, Microloans for the people of Kidugala, Demonstration plots of corn and beans, Equip evangelists with bikes, Bibles, and hymn books.

📍 **Join us for a night of delicious food, friendly competition, fellowship, and making a difference in Tanzania!**

*Souper*

## FROM THE *Pastor's Desk*

February 2026

Dear friends in Christ,

Lent begins this month. Lutherans have traditionally joined together for midweek worship services during Lent. We take extra time in worship to prepare for the beauty and glory of Easter. We think that the deeper our repentance and struggle against sin, the more joy we will experience in the celebration of the Resurrection of Easter.

Worship is not something we do to earn points with God or to make ourselves holier. Worship is something we do to deepen our desire for God and for God's grace. We gather around God's Word in the name of Jesus to taste the goodness of God's grace so that we will have a deeper thirst for God's presence in our daily lives.

There are only 3 reasons Lutherans gather for worship. 1. God is worth our effort. If we never give up anything to worship God, then we lose our sense of honor and respect for God. 2. God's Word works. We may not remember much of the sermon, but the truth is that without the regular hearing of God's Word, our faith will wither and die. 3. We gather as the family of faith to encourage and support one another. Your presence in worship does encourage other people. There is really only one reason that Christians skip gathering for worship (besides ill health) and that is that there is something more important in their heart than hunger and thirst for God.

At a recent LCMC gathering, a retired pastor got up to complain that he was having trouble finding a place to worship. He was only looking for 3 things. 1. Regular confession of sin and the proclamation of God's forgiveness. It is a reminder that we gather not has people who have it all together but as broken people who need God's grace. 2. Regular confessing of our faith in one of the historic creeds (Apostles and Nicene). It is a way to remind ourselves of what matters. 3. The use of a regular schedule of readings that exposes us to large parts of the Old Testament, the New Testament, and especially the gospels. He claimed that he couldn't even find those 3 things in most LCMC churches. He obviously doesn't live in Western Iowa.

The Lutheran movement began because Martin Luther wanted to improve the preaching of the Church. What he heard was a lot of helpful advice about how to be a better person, how to get oneself closer to heaven. But it all left him feeling cold and guilty and hopeless. He already knew how to be a better person. He just didn't seem to make any progress.

But then Luther discovered the Gospel, the good news of God's gift in Jesus. And the good news of Jesus is what gave him hope and strength to live in gratitude and joy. Lutherans believe we don't need practical sermons of practical advice. What we need is good news that goes to the heart of our problems and offers us faith, hope, and forgiveness. We need good news that goes to the heart to give us courage, confidence, and peace. That is what Lutheran preachers try to do. We don't always succeed. But even when we don't succeed, there is the promise of Holy Communion to clearly say that Jesus is God's gift for you. Thanks be to God.

I look forward to seeing you at worship.

Yours in Christ, Phil Nielsen



Dave Koos who turns 88 on February 3  
 Derald Kumm who turns 91 on February 3  
 Myrna Havick who turns 85 on February 4  
 Diane Kastens who turns 83 on February 4  
 Irma Pedersen who turns 88 on February 21  
 Arlynn Gittins who turns 83 on February 24  
 Ed Mills who turns 89 on February 28



Rich & Sharon Daberkow will be married 60 years on February 12.  
 Phil & Elaine Miller will be married 62 years on February 14  
 Al & Bonnie Ickes will be married 57 years on February 15  
 Dick & Sue Olson will be married 57 years on February 15



**OUR PRAYER LIST:** Al Ickes, Shirley Haner, Karen Plewes, Rich Daberkow, Barbara Sorensen, Hertha Haas, Doris Rasmussen, Sherry Lytle, Ellie Nelson, Ruthe & Pat Pattison, Phil Smith, Arlynn Gittins, Kayla Weis, Kay Koos, Connie & Ed Benson, Grace Ashdown (Randi McEvoy's sister-in-law), Dan Abendroth (Sandy Sisson's brother), Dave and Kim Burmeister, Lindsay Beatty (Brother-in-Law of Todd & Angie Madsen, Waylon Heth (Friend of Dave and Diana Greve), Howard Jensen (Friend of Dave and Diana Greve), and Marilyn Torgersen (Judi Pedersen's sister).

Jared Walters, Jesse Hansen, Christian Brownlee, Titan Coleman (Dave Pedersen's great nephew) Koby Redler (Cousin of Kevin Osborn) serving in the Iowa National Guard on deployment.

For those who would like to write to Jared Walters and Jesse Hansen and Titan their addresses are:

SPC Walters, Jared	SGT Coleman, Titan
Task Force Elkhound	Task Force Elkhound
D Co. I-168 IN BN	C Co 1-168
LSA Hooligan	Ebril Airbase
APO AE 09316	APO, AE 09316

SGT Jesse Hansen  
 TF Nyala, 2/34 IBCT  
 APO, AE 09330

## IMMANUEL'S INSIGHTS



### ILCW EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

January 14, 2026

The ILCW Executive Board met January 14 in the narthex with Sandy Nelsen, Kathy Block, Janet Johannsen (via phone), Sharon Daberkow and Sally Nairn present. Sandy opened the meeting at 9:00 AM.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** The minutes from November meeting were reviewed. Sharon motioned and Kathy seconded to approve the minutes.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The end of year 2025 balance was \$6573.12. Kathy reported the ILCW charity donation checks were written in January: West Central \$1500, Salem Home \$300, Riverside Camp \$500, Ingham Camp \$500, New Hope \$500, South Sudan Refugee Camp \$300 and LC Clinic \$400. Bills paid: Harlan Newspaper (Bazaar) \$95, Stamps \$78 (1 roll), Floral Elegance (poinsettias) \$525, Linda Mosher \$117.58 (cake) and Thank Offering to Kids At Risk (Kris Olson-Harmon) \$1125. January balance is \$1448.12.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** **Correspondence-**Thank You posted on bulletin board. **Hospitality-**Jonelle sent out 195 cards in 2025. **Community-**Sharon reported Vicki Carstens will be the new chair. A Birthday party at Elm Crest is scheduled for Feb 9. **Mission Quilters-**Jean and Julie will be co-chairs of the quilting.

**OLD BUSINESS:** **Christmas Tea-"Winter Wonderland Wedding Dress Review"** was enjoyed by 80+ attendees. Thanks to Linda Mosher for this fun program, to all who donated dresses (30+), the models and many helpers. Vintage wedding dresses and the table decorations were all beautiful!

**NEW BUSINESS:** Diana Greve will be taking over decorating bulletin board. Discussion of future Harvest Bazaars to be continued.

Meeting adjourned to Fellowship Hall.

Janet Johannsen, Secretary

### ILCW GATHERING

Twenty-two attended. Vicki Carstens gave the program on "A Grandmother's Legacy". Her grandmother, Delila Colvin Buckner, had many roles other than being a wife, mother and grandmother. At age 82 she decided to become an artist. She was known in her Missouri town as "Grandma Moses." A trip to Missouri to visit cemeteries resulted in some "Godwink" moments. A familiar name was found at the local lumberyard. The owner's Mother was a good friend of Vicki's Mother. They had a nice visit with this friend and her daughter. Which resulted in more "Godwinks." Vicki was rewarded with beautiful pictures her Grandmother painted. Her brother and her are now enjoying those pictures in their homes. Thanks for a great program. Myrna served treats and Linda shared Ole and Lena laughs. Harvest Bazaar was discussed. Elaine invited people to Caregivers' Compass. Many in Immanuel are needing prayers. Closed meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER: ILCW EXEC BOARD FEB 11 @ 9 AM—GATHERING 9:30 AM

MISSION QUILTERS FEB 23 @ 1:00      BUNCO FEB 24 @ 2:00



## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

I would like to encourage you to keep "Operation Christmas Child" shoe box ministry in your mind all this coming year. In 2025 we packed 77 boxes and that was a real WOW!! As this year unfolds take a shoe box or any other container and add to it each month with items you think a child would like. Now is a good time to find really discounted items.

The age group to buy for are 2-4 boy or girl, 5-9 boy or girl and 10-14 year old boy or girl. Grab a box or two or more and start shopping every month! At the Women's meeting on Feb. 11 at 9:30 a.m. there will be a guest speaker about the Shoe Box ministry. Please consider joining us for this meeting to find more out about this ministry!

Thank you *Julie Vorm*



Since launching, our Caregivers Compass Support Group we have built a vibrant community, offering a safe and compassionate space for members to connect and find support. If you would like to join us, our next meeting will be Tuesday, February 10 at 9:30. Contact: Elaine Miller 712-579-0925, Joyce Foley 712-579-1837, or Jan Applegate 712-579-2160 with any questions.

## SHARING



## SHARING CUPBOARD

Thank you to all that have been donating to the Sharing Cupboard! We've had a lot of activity recently, and your support is truly appreciated. If you'd still like to contribute, donations can be dropped off at the office or directly at the cupboard. The office can also place grocery orders on your behalf if you prefer not to shop yourself.

## WORSHIP & GIVING

	<u>Attendance</u>				<u>General</u>	<u>Refugee</u>	
December 28	0	+	54	=	54	\$ 4255.00	\$ 95.00
January 3-4	24	+	144	=	168	\$ 10330.00	\$ 395.00
January 10-11	26	+	107	=	133	\$ 8880.00	\$ 520.00
January 17-18	23	+	120	=	143	\$ 6192.00	\$ 100.00

Building \$1105.00

Sharing Cupboard (Food Pantry) \$400.00

Direct Deposit General \$2136.00

Christmas Eve \$4195.00

Tanzania Orphans \$450.00

Tanzania \$0

## Ladies of Immanuel

If you are new to Immanuel or have never been contacted, we need your helping hands.

### Funerals

This service is appreciated by the families.

We supply salads and bars

We serve the funeral.



### Committees

**Community**—We go to Elm Crest and Salem to play bingo and again to celebrate birthdays.

**Kitchen**— We need someone to keep the kitchen supplies stocked and the kitchen in good order.

**Mission Quilter**—These quilts are given to nursing homes and members with extended health issues. You do not need to be a quilter. We tie our quilts so all can help.

### Bazaar

We make and bring salads and desserts and need many workers for kitchen or serving.

We have a bake sale and craft table and can use your talents in either area.

If you are willing to share your time and talents or have any questions, please call:

**Sandy Nelsen— 712-579-2171**

**Kathy Block—712-579-1003**

### **Worship in February 2026**

January 31 - February 1 Epiphany 4	Mark 2:1-12 Real Healing	Communion
February 7-8 Epiphany 5	Mark 2:18-28 New Wine	Baptisms Bells
February 14-15 Epiphany 6	Mark 9:2-10 Transfiguration	Communion
February 18 Ash Wednesday	Mark 9:14-27 Belief and Unbelief	Soup at 6 p.m. 7 p.m. Imposition of Ashes
February 21-22 Lent 1	Matthew 4:1-11 Spiritual War	Choir
February 25 Midweek 1	The Passion according to Judas	Soup at 6 p.m. Worship at 7 p.m.
February 28-March 1 Lent 2	Mark 8:22-33 Blindness and Sight	Communion



## Camp

In western Iowa we are blessed with 2 Lutheran Bible camps that align with our faith and mission: Riverside and Ingham/Okoboji. Immanuel encourages families to participate in the camping programs of Riverside and Ingham/Okoboji either by attending family camp together or by sending children and youth to camp. We know that a week at camp gives young people a deeper connection to their faith and to their church. We encourage you to check out the programs at Ingham and Okoboji at [okoboji.org](http://okoboji.org) or at Riverside at [riversidelbc.org](http://riversidelbc.org).

We believe in camp so much that we have teamed up to provide \$300 scholarships for any child or family that attends Riverside or Ingham/Okoboji for a full week of camp. Flyers with a scholarship form are available at the church. In addition, registering before March 1 saves you another \$30.



## Lenten Soup and Sides Suppers

We have enjoyed table fellowship before our Wednesday evening Lenten services. Generous donors have contributed soup and sides and serving begins at 6:00. People come when they can to enjoy a light meal and fellowship before the 7:00 worship service. The worship services are about 45 minutes and will feature dramatic monologues from the witnesses of the Passion of our Lord.

We are looking for people to sign up to bring soup or sides for the 6 Wednesdays from February 18 to March 25. A sign-up sheet is in the church office. Thank you in advance for sharing good food and joining.



## 2026 ILC ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

52 voting members signed in for the 2026 Annual Meeting of Immanuel on Sunday, January 25. Pastor Nielsen led devotions from 1 Corinthians 12 about what it means for the Church to have members.

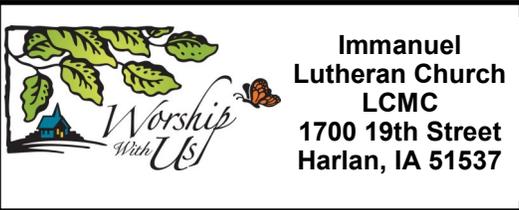
The treasurer reported 2025 income of \$307,975 and expenses of \$283,268 for a net income of \$24,707. The congregation approved a 2026 budget of \$312,917.

Elected to Church Council were Dave Greve, Joey Hansen, Craig Olson, and Alex Monson. We thank John Taggs for his 6 years of service. Elected to the Trust and Memorial Committee was Gary Jahn. Elected to the Nominating Committee were Verne Nelson, Rick Chipman, and Vicki Carstens.

Elected as a delegate to the 2026 LCMC Gathering in Des Moines was Kris Olson-Harmon. Elected as Salem Lutheran Homes delegates were Maggie Hatcher, Sandy Nelsen, Judi Olson, and Jean Whitfield. Elected as our camp delegates were Maggie Hatcher and Alex Monson.

John Taggs reported that the new "Comfy Corner" and the new library have received sufficient funding. Pastor reported that Jared Walters has been approved to have his undergrad internship at Immanuel. The refugee food assistance program continues with our "Hope for Mabaan" committee in Ethiopia. We hope to continue sending \$2000 per month in assistance in 2026.

Motion was approved to authorize the Church Council to get the sewer line repaired using funds



**Immanuel  
Lutheran Church  
LCMC  
1700 19th Street  
Harlan, IA 51537**

NON-PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
HARLAN, IOWA 51537  
PERMIT NO. 97

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

Church Office: 712-755-5207  
Office Hours: 9-2(M-F)  
Office Email: [ilc@fmctc.com](mailto:ilc@fmctc.com)  
Pastor Phil's Cell Number: 712-579-2098  
Home Number: 712-766-3178  
E-mail: [peacephillip@gmail.com](mailto:peacephillip@gmail.com)  
[www.harlanimmanuel.org](http://www.harlanimmanuel.org)

Staff:

Pastor Phil Nielsen  
Office Manager: Diana Greve  
Custodian: Slava Aleev

# FEBRUARY 2026

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>8:00 Choir <b>1</b>                      9:00 Communion/JAM                      10:00 Fellowship Coffee                      10:15 Adult Bible Class                      4:30 Scouts</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b>                      9:00 CF Quilters                      5:00-9:00 Scouts Dist</p>	<p><b>4</b>                      3:30 GROW                      4:00 Women's Bible Stu                      5:15 Bells                      5:30 Confirmation                      6:30 LYO                      6:30 1<sup>st</sup> Communion</p>	<p><b>5</b>                      9:00-3:30 WIC                      10:30 Pastor @Westridge</p>	<p><b>6</b>                      10:00 Pastor @ ElmCrest</p>	<p><b>7</b>                      5:00 Communion</p>
<p><b>8</b>                      8:00 Choir                      9:00 Worship/JAM                      10:00 Fellowship Coffee                      10:15 Adult Bible Class                      4:30 Scouts                      5:30 Scout Leaders</p>	<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>10</b>                      9:00 CF Quilters                      9:30 Caregivers Compass                      10:00 Pastor @ ElmCrest                      6:30 Executive Board                      7:00 Church Council</p>	<p><b>11</b>                      9:00 ILCW Bd. Mtg.                      9:30 ILCW Gathering                      3:30 GROW                      4:00 Women's Bible Stu                      5:15 Bells                      5:30 Confirmation                      6:30 LYO                      6:30 1<sup>st</sup> Communion</p>	<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>13</b>                      Homeschool Game Club                      5:30-8:00</p>	<p><b>14</b>                        5:00 Worship</p>
<p><b>15</b>                      8:00 Choir                      9:00 Communion/JAM                      10:00 Fellowship Coffee                      10:15 Adult Bible Class                      12-3:30 Fellowship Hall                      Reserved                      4:30 Scouts</p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>17</b>                      9:00 CF Quilters                      10:00 Pastor @ Hansen House</p>	<p><b>18</b>                        4:00 Women's Bible Stu                      5:15 Bells                      6:00 Soup                      7:00 Worship</p>	<p><b>19</b>                      9:00-3:30 WIC                      NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p>	<p><b>20</b>                      9:30 Pastor @ Salem</p>	<p><b>21</b>                      5:00 Communion</p>
<p><b>22</b>                      8:00 Choir                      9:00 Worship/JAM                      10:00 Fellowship Coffee                      10:15 Adult Bible Class                      4:30 Scouts</p>	<p><b>23</b>                      1:00 Mission Quilters</p>	<p><b>24</b>                      9:00 CF Quilters                      2:00 Bunco</p>	<p><b>25</b>                      3:30 GROW                      4:00 Women's Bible Stu                      5:15 Bells                      5:30 Confirmation                      6:00 Soup                      7:00 Worship</p>	<p><b>26</b>                      ASSEMBLE NEWSLETTER                      6:00 TZ Comm.</p>	<p><b>27</b>                      Homeschool Game Club                      5:30-8:00</p>	<p><b>28</b>                      5:00 Worship</p>

# Worship and Fellowship Servants Schedule January 2026-February 2026

	February 21-22	Feb. 28-March 1	March 7-8	March 14-15	March 21-22
<b>Acolytes</b>	Gavin Herbst Kolton Jensen	Truman Kjergaard Pyper Montgomery	Zoey Olson Maggie Petersen	Harper Petsche Leah Svendsen	Will Chipman Cora Clay
<b>Saturday Greeter/Usher</b>	Dory Nielsen	Linda Peterson	Orvetta Priest	Terry & Shelly Saunders	Pat Schug
<b>Saturday Altar Guild</b>		Cheryl Nielsen		Kayla Jacobs	
<b>Sunday Greeter/ Usher</b>	Scott & Jean Whitfield	Phil & Sharyn Zimmerman	Barney & Judy Ahrenholtz	Amy Andersen Roger Andersen	Mark & Michelle Andersen
<b>Sunday Altar Guild</b>		Samantha Allen Cora Chapman		Hope Chipman Peg Haas	
<b>Scripture Reader (Sun)</b>	Kate Petersen	Mitch Petersen	Pam Rust	Terry Torneten	Steve Allen
<b>Communion Servers (Sun)</b>		Mary Hoch Stephen Lewo		Jennifer Booth Elaine Miller	
<b>Coffee Hosts (Sun)</b>	Erin Hastert Mary Hoch	Sandy Nelsen Donna Nelson	Ilene & Verne Nelson	Craig & Judi Olson	Kris Olson- Harmon Karma Petersen
<b>Sound</b>	Seth Johannsen	Kayla Weis	Kayla Weis	Kayla Weis	Kayla Weis
<b>Video</b>	Grant Chipman	Rick Chipman	Rick Chipman	Rick Chipman	Rick Chipman
<b>Projection</b>	Cheryl Nielsen (Sat) Teri Johnson (Sun)	Cheryl Nielsen (Sat) Teri Johnson (Sun)	Cheryl Nielsen(Sat) Teri Johnson (Sun)	Cheryl Nielsen (Sat) Teri Johnson (Sun)	Cheryl Nielsen (Sat) Teri Johnson (Sun)
<b>Council Person</b>	Dave Greve	Craig Olson		Kirk Jacobsen	